

Joseph A. D'Arienzo
Communications Director

County Administration Building
200 Adams Avenue, 6th Floor
Scranton, PA 18503
t (570) 963-6800 f (570) 963-6812
h (570) 343-1461 c (570) 430-8254
darienzoj@lackawannacounty.org

September 7, 2012 - For Immediate Release

Free Flu Shots & Senior Health Fair

It's hard to believe! Not only is Summer just about over, but flu season is officially here.

If you are 65 or older, it is vitally important to get vaccinated to combat the flu and its sometimes severe complications.

Lackawanna County is making it real easy for area residents to do so. The County along with its Area Agency on Aging and the National Council on Aging with support from Sanofi Pasteur is conducting a Senior Health Fair and providing free flu shots as part of the "Flu & You Program."

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, from 10 am – 2 pm at The Electric City Trolley Museum, 300 Cliff Street, Scranton.

The fair will also feature 50 exhibitors, offering information on a variety of programs, services, living arrangements, legal information, sight and hearing data, transportation, and financial advice.

"Human Services play a huge role in what we do for our residents. This health fair is a great opportunity for us," said Lackawanna County Commissioner Jim Wansacz. "The people who attend not only get a free flu shot, but they also can learn about programs that they could utilize for themselves or a loved one in the future."

"This is a very practical program for us to offer," said Commissioner Corey D. O'Brien. "This is a great example of collaborating with other organizations to help-out others who may not be aware of what services they can capitalize on. And giving the free flu shots is a tremendous help to those who cannot afford it or whose insurance might not cover it."

"This program is tremendous. It is all about staying ahead of the "bug," savings lives and learning what services are available to help you out now or in the future," noted Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley.

"We have a very large elderly population that we care for everyday," explained Colin Holmes, Executive Director of the County's Area Agency on Aging. "This is a great opportunity all the way around. Some people can't get out, so the transportation to the health fair, the exhibitor information, and the flu shot make it a 'win-win' situation."

The event will open with a brief program featuring remarks from the Lackawanna County Commissioners, Pennsylvania Health Department, representatives from the Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' Area Agency on Aging organizations, and Wilkes-Barre Health officials.

After the program, flu shots will be given continuously throughout the day by pharmacists from Rite Aid Pharmacy. Attendees will only need to provide their insurance and Medicare cards and name as a means of matching them and the serum batch that they receive.

Once the guests receive their flu shot, they will be able to inspect the historic trolley museum and visit the vendor displays.

Snacks, beverages and a light lunch will be served. There will also be various giveaways at the booths and prize drawings.

Rides from the 12 senior centers will be provided by the County's coordinated transportation system. Attendees must register for a ride by contacting Michele Newberry, the County's Community Relations Coordinator, at 570-963-6743, ext. 1873.

John McGurl of the County's Community Relations staff secured the exhibitors for the fair. The community organizations he enlisted to participate are: Lackawanna County's Area Agency on Aging, Serving Seniors, Voluntary Action Center, Life Geisinger, Oakwood Terrace, COLTS, Meals on Wheels, LINK, Prime Time Health, and Apprise.

Also, Penn State Extension, the County's Coordinated Transportation Department, Traditional Home Health Care, Sanofi Pasteur, Telespond, Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania, the County's Voter Registration Office, Hospice of the Sacred Heart, VNA Hospice, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, and the Epilepsy Foundation.

Also, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living, Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, the County's Community Relations Department, the Visitors' Bureau, Lackawanna Blind Association, Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, the County's Veterans Affairs Office, Penn DOT, Lackawanna County's Driver Safety Program, and Lutheran Homecare & Hospice

The area operations exhibiting include: Viewmont Medical/Prime Med, Colbert & Grebas Law Firm, Clarks Summit Senior Living, Genesis Healthcare/Wynnewood Nursing/Abington Manor, Celtic Health & Hospice Company, Home Instead Senior Care, and Lackawanna Health & Rehabilitation.

Also, Muskey Financial, Northeastern Eye Institute, Miracle Ear, Riverside Rehabilitation, Care Givers of America, Mid Valley Medical Equipment, Tiffany Court and Scranton Manor.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Fast Track program of Meals on Wheels.